

Centerfire
Quemado Ranger District
2016 Annual Operating Instructions
(01/10/16)

Below is your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions, including a Pasture Rotation Schedule, Allowable Use Guidelines and Monitoring Dates. We appreciate your efforts in the management of your livestock throughout the grazing year.

An additional 40 head will be authorized for the 2016 grazing year. This increase is in accordance with the NEPA decision dated 09/10/03 and associated Environmental Assessment (EA). Appendix 2 of the EA dictates that an increase of 90% of the calculated additional capacity (90% of 44) can be authorized for one or multiple years if utilization monitoring, based on full stocking, over a three year period is consistently 10% or more below the allowable use guidelines. This criterion was met during the grazing years of 2009- 2011. With the increase in numbers during the 2015 grazing season, monitoring results showed no signs of overuse; therefore the increased numbers will remain effective for the 2016 grazing season. Monitoring will be conducted at both the midpoint and end of the scheduled use period. In order to continue to graze the additional 40 head in future years, it is imperative that utilization monitoring does not exceed the allowable use.

2016 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Start Date	End Date	Number	Allowable Use (%)
Dillon/Freeman	03/01/16	06/15/16	179	30/25
Section/Campbell/Bishop	06/16/16	09/15/16	179	30/30/20
SA	09/16/16	11/15/16	179	30
Black Gap/Bastion	11/16/16	02/28/17	179	30/20
Dillon West/Funderburg	04/01/16	06/16/16	4 (bulls) 40 cows	30/20
Dillon West/Funderburg	10/01/16	02/28/17	4 (bulls) 40 cows	30/20

Grazing Restriction:

Grazing restrictions apply as shown on your allotment map provided to you in 2008. If you need another copy contact Wayne Witty at the District Office. The restrictions are as follows:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed within the identified areas in the Bishop Canyon pasture from February 1 through August 31 and no concentration of livestock, i.e. corral use, traps, or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is permitted.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground

cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Decision Notice dated 09/10/03 sets allowable use rates on riparian woody species at 25%. Allowable use guidelines vary from 20% to 30% by pasture on herbaceous forage species.

Utilization Monitoring:

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates are typically set according to the previous year's monitoring results. However, due to the increase in authorized numbers, monitoring will be conducted at both the midpoint and end of the scheduled use period. In order to continue to graze the additional 40 head in future years, it is imperative that utilization monitoring does not exceed the allowable use. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the Centerfire Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2016 Monitoring Dates:

Pasture	Monitoring Date
Dillon, Freeman	04/20/16, 06/23/16
Section, Campbell, Bishop	07/14/16, 09/21/16
SA	10/05/16, 11/16/16
Black Gap, Bastion	01/11/17, 02/08/17
Dillon West, Funderburg	05/25/16, 06/21/16, 12/07/16, 02/09/17

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plants sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and/or water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2016 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment will be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range Developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

The following tanks have received clearances from the Archeologist. Please coordinate timing of project work with the District at least one month in advance of planned start date to ensure all appropriate paperwork is completed.

-Joshua Tank

-Freeman Tank

-Frank Tank

-Black Gap Tank

-Centerfire Tank 1

-Centerfire Tank 2

-Knowlton Tank

Follow up Items from AOI Meeting:

Fence #6035 Reconstruction – The District will add this to the list of projects needing clearances performed.

Luna Planning Area Projects – We added the increased acres of Rabbitbrush treatment and the wells discussed at the AOI meeting to the Luna Planning Area project list.

Dirt Tanks – The dirt tanks identified to be cleaned will be added to the list of projects needing clearances.

Road Maintenance – Please contact the District prior to performing road maintenance so that we can get the proper clearances.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call Wayne Witty at (575) 773-4678.

/S/ Emily Irwin
Emily Irwin
District Ranger

02/23/16
Date